

## INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.  
PCT/EP 99/08830

## V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

## 1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims		YES
	Claims	1-5	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims		YES
	Claims	1-5	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-5	YES
	Claims		NO

## 2. Citations and explanations

Reference is made to the following documents:

D1: EP-A-0 705 857 (HOECHST AG) 10 April 1996 (1996-04-10),

D2: ISSARIS ET AL.: "Polymerization of a p-quinodimethane derivative to a precursor of poly(p-phenylene vinylene)--indications for a free radical mechanism" POLYMER, GB, ELSEVIER SCIENCE PUBLISHERS B.V., Volume 38, Number 10, 1 May 1997 (1997-05-01), pages 2571-2574, XP004059760 ISSN: 0032-3861.

1. Document D1 discloses a method for producing polymers as defined in the present Claim 1. Glycerin, among others, or MMF can be used as a solvent in conjunction with a base such as NatBuO (page 8, lines 19-20; page 10, line 3; Example 9).

However, it follows from D2 that during the polymerization of a sufanyl-xylol compound, t-butanol and an MMF anion are formed, the MMF anion functioning as a base and therefore it is to be expected that t-butanol would be acting as the solvent (see D2: page 2571, column 2, lines 25-26).

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/EP 99/08830

Example 9 of D1 discloses a polymerization of a sufinyl-xylol compound in the presence of MMF and NatBuO.

Accordingly, t-butanol and an MMF anion are present (*in situ*) in the reaction mixture as a solvent and a base, respectively.

Therefore the subject matter of Claims 1-5 is not novel.